

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 18, 2006. This amendment is being filed along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), after the filing of a Notice of Appeal and before the filing of an Appeal Brief, which would have been due Sunday, July 1, 2007.

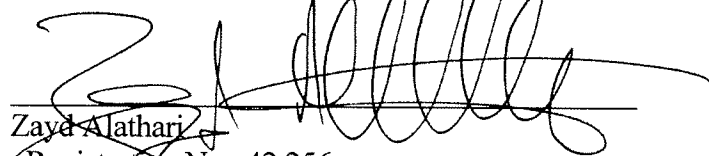
Claims 1, 2, 4, 26, and 47 have been amended. New claims 53-59 have been added. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the originally filed application, e.g., paragraphs 14, 19 -22 and 65-68. No new matter is added. These amendments are not made to narrow the scope of the invention but rather to clarify certain aspects and to correct typographical mistakes and remove redundancy. In particular, claims 1 and 47 have been amended to clarify that the outermost drug reservoir layer is a single layer, as discussed with the Examiner during the telephone discussion of June 15, 2007.

Independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-46 and 49-58 and independent claims 47 and 59 are presented for consideration.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance indicating the allowability of claims 1-47 and 49-59 and that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in any patent application processing fees pursuant to 37 CFR §1.17, including extension of time fees pursuant to 37 CFR §1.17(a)-(d), associated with this communication and to credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,



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